



Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)

Turkish Pre-Service Teachers

Program of the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State

Implemented by IREX

APPLICATION for Turkish Pre-Service Teachers

The U.S. Department of State and IREX (the International Research & Exchanges Board) announce an open competition for a program that will bring outstanding pre-service secondary-level school teachers to the U.S. for a professional development opportunity.

The TEA Program seeks to:

- Enhance pre-service teachers' understanding of best practices in teaching methodologies, lesson planning and the use of technology in the classroom;
- Create among educators a more nuanced understanding of the U.S.;
- Develop productive and lasting relationships and mutual understanding between U.S. and international teachers and their students; and
- Contribute to improving teaching in Turkey by preparing participants to serve as teacher leaders in their classroom and schools who can apply and share their experience and skills with their peers and students upon returning home.

ELIGIBLE TEACHING DISCIPLINES: "English Language Teaching"; "English Language and Literature"

Please Return Complete Applications to:

NOTE: Further information is also available online at www.irex.org

DEADLINE: March 4, 2011

For more information go to:
<http://turkey.usembassy.gov/>

Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) provides international in-service and pre-service teachers with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge of the United States.

In 2011, the TEA program will provide approximately 154 in-service secondary school teachers from Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Western Hemisphere with a professional development program hosted by a U.S. university. Additionally, the TEA program will include 22 pre-service teachers from Turkey in 2011.

The TEA program for pre-service teachers from Turkey consists of a non-degree, non-credit customized academic program including coursework and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, instructional technology, and teaching strategies for use in the home environment. The six-week program will also include an internship at a secondary school to actively engage participants with U.S. teachers and students. Cultural activities and academic support will be provided for participants throughout the program.

Upon their return to Turkey, the 22 pre-service teachers will be eligible to apply for small grant funding to conduct service learning projects, offer follow-on training for other teachers, or conduct other activities that build upon their exchange experience.

ABOUT THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries around the world. ECA strives to achieve this goal through a wide range of international exchanges as authorized by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended. ECA works in close cooperation with U.S. Embassies overseas to promote personal, professional, and institutional ties between private citizens and organizations in the United States and abroad.

ABOUT IREX (INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & EXCHANGES BOARD)

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of over \$60 million and a staff of 500 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 100 countries.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Be pre-service teachers in English as a Foreign Language and intend to pursue a career in teaching
- Be citizens of and residents in Turkey
- Have proficiency in written and spoken English with a minimum score of 500 on paper-based TOEFL or 61 on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT)
(Note: It is not necessary to submit TOEFL scores at the time of application. However, all applicants who are selected as program finalists or alternate candidates will be required to take the TOEFL exam before final approval to participate in the TEA Program is granted)
- Be completing undergraduate study in English language teaching or English language and literature during academic year 2011 or 2012.
- Have met all eligibility requirements & submitted a complete application

Applications not meeting the above eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the selection committee. IREX reserves the right to verify all of the information included in the application. In the event that there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will immediately be declared invalid and the applicant ineligible.

Exclusions: Former participants of ILEP, TEA, Partners in Education (PiE), or the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program are ineligible to apply. If you have participated in other programs, please talk to the U.S. Embassy in your country about your eligibility. Staff or families of staff at a US Post or Fulbright Commission are not eligible to apply. Current IREX employees and consultants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, and siblings) are not eligible to compete in any IREX-implemented grant programs, either as individuals or as the responsible party representing an institutional applicant. IREX does not discriminate against grant applicants because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or any other protected characteristic as established by U.S. law.

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The TEA fellowship includes the following provisions. Additional costs or expenses are not covered under the terms of the fellowship.

- J-1 visa support;
- A pre-departure orientation held in Turkey;
- Round-trip airfare to and within the U.S.;
- A Welcome Program and End of Program Conference
- Academic program fees;
- Housing (generally shared with other program fellows) and meals;
- Accident and sickness coverage (does not cover preexisting conditions);
- A daily allowance for meals and incidentals during the university academic program
- A baggage allowance for fees incurred during program travel;
- Transportation to the internship school (if necessary);
- A book/professional development allowance;
- The opportunity to apply for small grants.

SELECTION CRITERIA (NOT IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE)

TEA fellows will be selected through a merit-based open competition based on the criteria below. Top candidates will be interviewed by an interview panel and must take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or equivalent English language examination or provide valid results from March 2010 or later.

- Demonstrated commitment to teaching in the field of secondary education and English as a Foreign Language;
- Demonstrated leadership potential;
- Professional and educational experience and achievements;
- Potential for developing long-term linkages between U.S. and home country educational institutions and schools;
- Preparedness (including maturity, flexibility, and ability to function independently) for an **intensive** U.S.-based training program.
- Willingness and capacity to work collaboratively with peers to foster a positive learning community for professional development
- Ability to express ideas clearly and effectively; and
- English language skills adequate to develop lesson plans, manage coursework and team-teach in U.S. schools (a minimum score of 500 on paper-based TOEFL or 61 on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) is required for TEA program participation).
- Selection Criteria (not in order of importance):
- Applicants who have had few or no opportunities to travel to the U.S. will be given priority.

GENERAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Please answer all questions on the application.
- Please type or print legibly in black ink.
- If a question does not apply to you, please enter N/A (not applicable).
- Include your full, legal name as indicated on your official documents such as a passport or national ID card.
- Include complete, exact, contact information (including zip/postal codes for all addresses and city codes for all phone and fax numbers if available).

Deadline: **March 4, 2011**

A complete application must include the following:

- A completed and signed application.
- A signed reference letter (in English) from someone who has known you in an academic or professional capacity
- Official university transcripts to date (through the most current semester).
- Copy of your passport.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Application Deadline:	March 4, 2011
Semi-Finalist Interviews:	March 14-25, 2011
Notification of Nominees: (nominated by selection committee in Turkey)	March 30, 2011

Notification of Finalists: (confirmed by Washington D.C.- based selection committee)	May, 2011
U.S. Program Dates:	August–September, 2011

Name: _____



Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) Turkish Pre-Service Teachers

Program of the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State
Implemented by IREX
Application for Turkish Pre-Service Teachers

Section I.

1. Name: _____
as listed on passport: (Surname) (First) (Middle)

2. Country of Citizenship: _____

3. Country of Legal Residence: _____

4. Place of Birth: _____
as listed on passport (city) (country)

5. Date of Birth: _____
(month) (day) (year)

6. Gender: Male Female

7. Home Mailing Address:

Street/Building Number _____ Apartment Number _____
(if applicable)

City or Town: _____ Postal Index/Code: _____

Country _____ Region: _____
(if applicable)

Telephone number: _____ Mobile Telephone: _____
(country code + city code + number) (country code + city code + number)

E-mail: _____

Name: _____

8. University Address:

Street/Building Number _____ Apartment Number _____
(if applicable)

City or Town: _____ Postal Index/Code: _____

Country _____ Region: _____
(if applicable)

Telephone number: _____

9. University Information:

Name of University: _____

Location of University: Urban or Rural or Suburban
 Public (government-run) or Private

Number of Students at university: _____

Degree program enrolled in: _____

Year of study: _____ Anticipated graduation date: _____

Anticipated degree: _____

10. Did someone you know participate in the TEA program last year? If yes, what is his or her name?

Yes No

Name(s): _____

11. Are you currently applying to any other U.S. government sponsored educational programs for 2011-2012?

Yes No

If yes, please specify which program: _____

Program Dates: _____

Name of sponsoring organization: _____

Name: _____

12. Are you currently applying to programs in any other countries?

Yes No

If yes, please specify which program: _____

Program Dates: _____

Name of sponsoring organization: _____

13. Have you previously traveled on a U.S. government sponsored exchange program?

Yes No

If yes, please specify which program: _____

Program Dates: _____

Name of sponsoring organization: _____

14. Have you travelled to any other country on an exchange program?

Yes No

If yes, please specify which program: _____

Program Dates: _____

Name of sponsoring organization: _____

15. Have you traveled to the U.S. or outside your home country previously?

Yes No

If yes, please provide further detail in the table below:

City, Country Visited	Dates of Travel	Reason for Visit (Work/ Tourism/ Exchange Program)

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Name:

16. Please list all other international exposure you have had including working with international organizations, foreigners, teachers, classmates, etc. in your home country.

17. How did you hear about the TEA program?

- ☐ Fellow student
 ☐ Program Alumnus
 ☐ Friend
 ☐ University professor
☐ Publication:_____
 ☐ Website:_____
- ☐ Other:_____

18. Education: Please list your education background.

School/institution	# of years of study	Field of study/grades	Degree/certificate	Year of graduation/degree

19. Please list the academic courses you have taken or plan to enroll in during the 2010-2011 academic year that relate to education, teaching and English.

Name: _____

20. Foreign Language Proficiency.

How many years have you been studying English? _____

Please rate your proficiency for each language you know in the categories of Reading, Writing, Comprehension and Speaking. Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being low and 5 being high.

Language	Reading	Writing	Comprehension	Speaking

**You must provide a score of 500 on paper-based TOEFL or 61 on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) taken within the past 12 months. If you are selected as semi-finalist and need to take the exam, the U.S. Embassy will help to make arrangements.*

22. Please describe any other current or past activities in which you have participated,, including volunteer activities, that are related to teaching, education, or working with children.

21. Please describe any student teaching or practical teaching experience you have had. Please include the name of school(s), age of students, subjects taught and dates of teaching.

Name:

23. Essay Questions. Please prepare responses to the following four (4) essay questions using only the space provided. Each essay should be no more than 500 words. Your response to the following essay questions is the most important part of your application. Your response will give the selection committee an opportunity to better understand you as a soon-to-be teacher and your desire to participate in the program. Your essay responses provide the opportunity for you to present a picture of yourself as an educator and leader in your community. We urge you to think about your responses carefully and thoughtfully. Statements must be legible in order to be considered.

Using only the space provided for each question, please type or write responses to the following essay questions:

- Why do you want to become a teacher and a teacher of English as a foreign language in particular?

Name:

- Describe how participation in this program will help you become the teacher you want to be and how you will share your experience in the classroom and with your future students and colleagues.

Name:

- Please explain how you are prepared to participate in an international exchange.

Name:

21. Please enter your resume or CV using only the space provided.

IREX PRIVACY POLICY & APPLICATION CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Your privacy is important to IREX. That is why we request that all applicants read the following privacy policy statement carefully.

1. APPLICANT AND PARTICIPANT INFORMATION CONTENT AND STORAGE

Information about program applicants and current and past participants consists of data contained in their applications, information derived from interviews, and information gathered during the course of their program and as program alumni. IREX stores this information in written and electronic form indefinitely. Some data, such as contact information and professional experience, is continually updated.

2. USE OF INFORMATION: Information, which is described above, may be:

- A. Used by selection committees and interviewers to review applicants;
- B. Supplied to the program's funding organization;
- C. Submitted to potential host schools, universities, or organizations and/or organizations that provide internship opportunities; and
- D. Used for the evaluation of an individual's participation in the program and in the collection of data for general program evaluation by IREX, funding agencies or other organizations contracted to conduct evaluations.

IREX does not sell applicant or current/past participant information.

The principles stated herein are binding only to IREX; other organizations involved in the implementation of these programs may adhere to other privacy or similar policies.

3. CERTIFICATION: I certify that I completed this application myself, without any aid or assistance, that the information given in this application is complete and accurate, and that I have carefully read and understand all notes and disclaimers provided therein.

I understand that IREX reserves the right to verify all the information listed in the application. I understand that giving false or misleading information in the application will result in exclusion from the competition or immediate dismissal from the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA).

Also, I acknowledge that I am aware of the following requirements that I must observe if I am selected for the program:

- I must abide by all program rules and regulations and observe all the laws of the United States during my stay there, including returning to my home country for at least two years at the conclusion of the program in compliance with J-1 visa requirements.
- The medical insurance provided to me during my travels is intended only for emergencies and does not cover ordinary, pre-existing, and dental conditions.
- My spouse, children, other relatives or individuals are not permitted to accompany me to the United States on the program.

Signature of Applicant

Date

In order for IREX to respond to U.S. Federal inquiries, please check the box(es) below, on a voluntary basis, if you have the following disabilities:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment (Legally Blind) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): |



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2011 REFERENCE FORM

This reference form is to be completed by someone who knows you in an academic or professional capacity (professor, employer, etc.) and signed.

An English translation should be provided if the form and reference letter are not written in English.

To be completed by the applicant:

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Reference: _____

Reference's Relation to Applicant (professor, employer, etc.): _____

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) for Turkish Pre-Service Teachers provides aspiring Turkish educators with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject area, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge of the United States. In 2011, 22 Turkish students graduating in either 2011 or 2012 with a degree in "English Language Teaching" or "English Language and Literature" will be chosen for program participation.

The TEA program for pre-service teachers from Turkey consists of a non-degree, non-credit customized academic program including coursework and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, instructional technology, and teaching strategies for use in the home environment. The six-week program will also include an internship at a secondary school to actively engage participants with U.S. teachers and students. Cultural activities and academic support will be provided for participants throughout the program. Upon their return to Turkey, the 22 pre-service teachers will be eligible to apply for small grant funding to conduct service learning projects, offer follow-on training for other teachers, or conduct other activities that build upon their exchange experience.

To be completed by the reference:

1. Which of the following characteristics does the applicant display or demonstrate?

☐ Tolerance

☐ Passion for future career in teaching

☐ Respect

☐ Team-Work

☐ Outspokenness

☐ Leadership

☐ Maturity

☐ Flexibility

☐ Promotion of new ideas

☐ Positive reputation

2. In the space provided below please write or type a recommendation letter expressing why this applicant should participate in the TEA program. Please comment upon how this pre-service teacher would benefit from the program; his or her level of maturity and flexibility; and the characteristics that distinguish this pre-service teacher from others.